United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400
Date: March 15, 2004

Ms. Jil Swearingen
USDI National Park Service
Center for Urban Ecology
4598 Mac Arthur Boulevard, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Jil:

In the fall of 2003 and winter of 2004, Catoctin Mountain Park personnel and USDA Forest Service personnel conducted gypsy moth egg mass surveys at the Catoctin Mountain Park. The purpose of the surveys was to evaluate the efficacy of the suppression project conducted this past spring and to assess the potential for defoliation and the need for treatment in 2004.

The location of the survey plots are shown in Figure 1. In brief, egg mass densities ranged from 0-160 and averaged 44 egg masses per acre (Table 1). Egg mass densities have been reduced approximately 97.5 percent from the pre-treatment level of 1793 egg masses per acre. No defoliation was detected within the treatment block or elsewhere at the park during the aerial survey conducted on June 22 (see report dated July 11).

It was not expected that a suppression project using the biological insecticide Gypchek would provide foliage protection for 100 percent of the area treated and a population reduction that exceeded 97 percent. Based on results of previous suppression projects using Gypchek, foliage protection was expected on approximately 75 percent of the treatment area along with a gypsy moth population reduction in the 50-75 percent range. It is very likely that the results of this year's suppression project was aided by a natural decline of the gypsy moth in the area.

Since no noticeable defoliation is expected, treatment is not recommended at CMP in 2004.

Please call me at (304) 285-1555 if you have any questions regarding the egg mass surveys or this letter.

Sincerely,

Rodney L. Whiteman

RODNEY L. WHITEMAN
Forester
Forest Health Protection

Cc: Mel Pool, CMP
James Voight, CMP
Robert Tichenor, MDA
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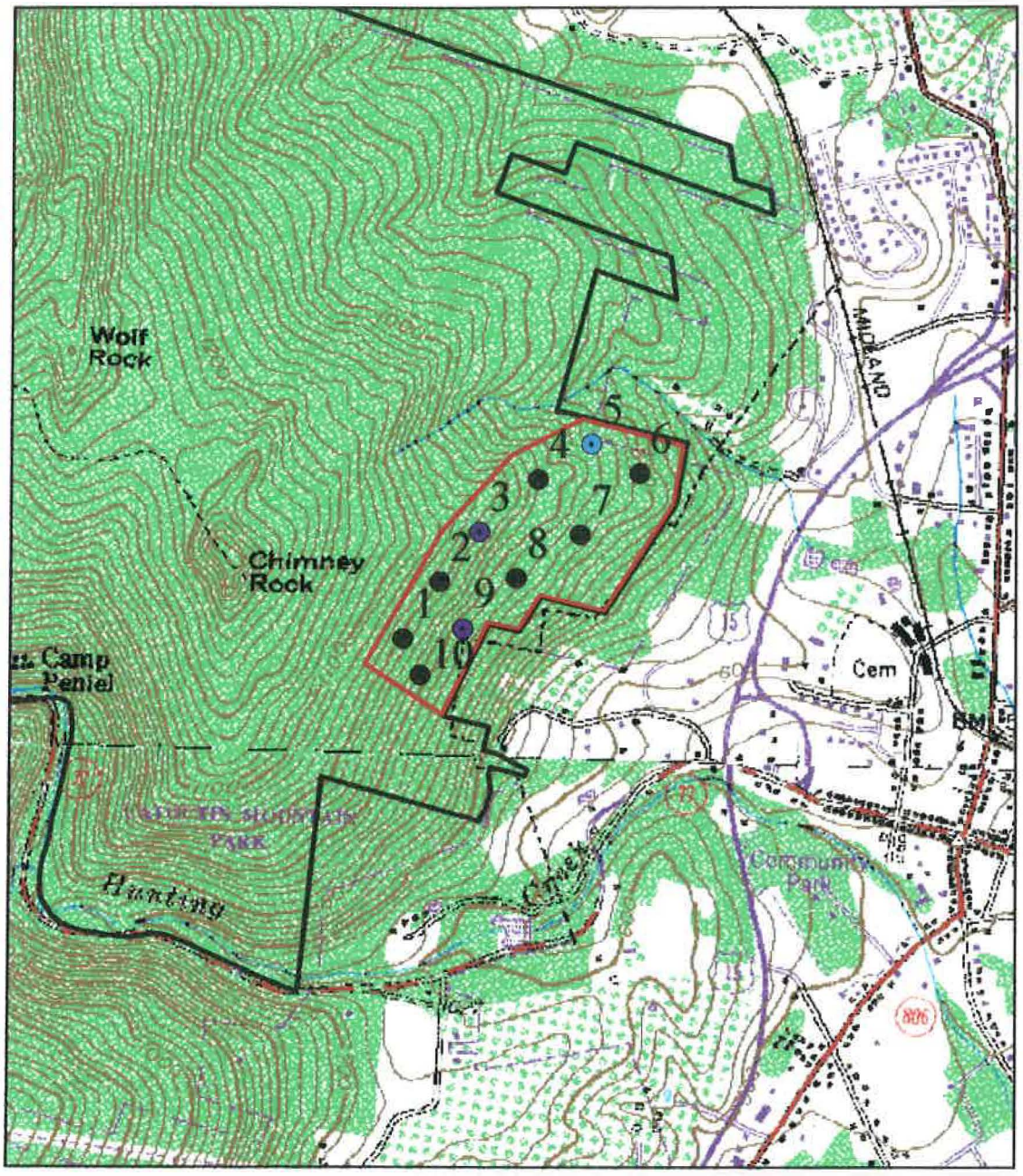
Rod's copy

Table 1 – Gypsy moth egg mass survey results at Catoctin Mountain Park, fall 2003 and winter 2004.

Plot #	#em/acre
1	0
2	0
3	160
4	0
5	120
6	0
7	0
8	0
9	160
10	0

Em/acre range = 0-160
Em/acre average = 44

Figure 1.--Gypsy moth egg mass survey plot locations along with the 2003 gypsy moth treatment area.



Legend

Egg masses per acre

- 0
- 120
- 160
- 2003 gypsy moth treatment area
- Park boundary

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

N W E S

USDA Forest Service, NA, S&PF, FHP, Morgantown, WV

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